

STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, September 20, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas www.stripes.com

MEDFLAG brings good will, health to Moroccans

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

ZAOUIA AOUFOUS, Morocco — The Moroccan woman limped over to the chair and opened her mouth, offering more proof that dentists in rural Morocco are as rare as waterfall in the arid, drought-stricken region.

She sat with the same look of fear that many people have when they see the dentist for the first time.

The only difference is that this woman, her leathery face wrinkled from the blazing North African sun, was going through the nerve-wracking experience in her late 60s.

As U.S. Navy Cmdr. Kurt Hummeldorf began to pry the aching tooth from her mouth, the woman gripped a spit cup with one hand and clenched her long, body-enveloping gown with the other.

While her first trip to the dentist could well be her last, she can find some comfort in the fact that she doesn't have many teeth that will require future work. Most have rotted away.

"You wish you could do more for them," said Hummeldorf, taking a break after removing the 70th tooth of the day. "But the best we can do is help them benefit for the long term."

The woman Hummeldorf operated on last Tuesday was among the more than 6,200 people treated by U.S., Afri-

can and European medical teams during an annual exercise and humanitarian relief mission in southeastern Morocco.

About 100 military personnel from the U.S. Army, Air Force, Air National Guard and Navy — the majority coming from Naval Station Rota, Spain — participated. The operation, dubbed MEDFLAG 03, began two weeks ago and officially ended Saturday.

While military doctors, nurses and corpsmen are using the training to hone their skills and help people in rural Morocco, the purpose of the exercise is to spread good will in Africa and project a good image of the American military in a country that is predominantly Muslim.

As the continent struggles with civil wars, AIDS and poverty, Africa has become a growing concern to the U.S. government.

Morocco's location along the Mediterranean Sea and the Strait of Gibraltar makes it strategically significant, while terrorism concerns give the United States good reason to maintain its partnership with the country.

In May, terrorists bombed several locations in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, killing 45 people.

Rear Adm. Lewis Crenshaw, deputy commander of U.S. Navy forces in Europe, said this month's medical ex-



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Kurt Hummeldorf, an oral surgeon based at Naval Station Rota, Spain, works on a Moroccan patient last week in Zaouia Aoufous, Morocco.

ercise is one way the U.S. military can help prevent Africa from becoming a terrorist breeding ground.

Teaming up with Morocco shows terrorists that this is "not where the seeds of terrorism are planted."

"I see a lot of benefit from exercises like this to allow us to, perhaps, move into other areas that will allow us to co-operate," Crenshaw said, after watching U.S. and host nation medical personnel at work.

During the relief portion of the exercise, U.S. service-members provided medical care to seven sites — most of them tiny hamlets scattered

throughout the desert. Doctors performed everything from eye exams to plastic surgery.

In Zaouia Aoufous, a small town nestled in a fertile valley known for its sweet dates, farmers and families from the outlying areas flocked to a school to be seen by doctors and nurses. They began lining up in the hot sun as the medical group set up a make-shift clinic in classrooms and tents.

Alaoni Chrifa arrived so doctors could check out her chronic cough. She talked glowingly of the doctors as she waited for some medicine, which was given to the

See MOROCCO on Page 2

Morocco

Continued from Page 1

patients for free.

"Who brought them here?" she asked a reporter. "God bless them."

Sadiki Hassne, president of a local social group for women and children, said it was "overwhelming" to see the dozens of American and Moroccan military doctors and nurses treating everyone.

"We really hope this visit could be longer," Hassne said.

Residents in rural Morocco rarely see a doctor because clinics are so far away or because they don't have the money. But even those who travel dozens of miles by foot or on horseback to the nearest hospital often find doctors without the latest equipment or who are short on some basic medical supplies.

Cmdr. Gordon Green, a surgeon stationed in Rota, said there is no shortage of people who need care.

"If we stayed forever, we could never finish," he said, after helping with hernia surgery on a 16-year-old boy.

Doctors and nurses have been surprised by the number of people seeking help during their visits to local towns. The annual exercise rotates among African countries, allowing medical personnel to provide humanitarian aid and train alongside host nation doctors and nurses.

With the help of their Moroccan counterparts, those participating in the exercise have by far exceeded their initial goals.

Last year, 186 U.S. troops treated 1,668 patients in Uganda. This year, the troops have treated 6,200 people. Surgeons performed more than 100 major surgeries, and optometry personnel handed out more than 500

pairs of custom-made glasses. Pharmacists dished out nearly 8,500 medications.

In addition, eye doctors completed 200 surgeries — 142 of them were for cataracts. One surgeon removed a ball of fat from a patient's leg to create a fake eye that used existing muscles to move in unison with the healthy eye.

At one point, dentists became so busy pulling teeth that they limited the number of teeth yanked per person to four. During one visit, they would pry the teeth out and just shuck them to the floor to keep up with demand.

By the end of the exercise, surgeons removed 1,200 teeth — additional evidence that brushing is not part of the morning routine around these parts.

The amount and quality of care provided did not go unnoticed. Some Moroccans went to extraordinary lengths to show their appreciation.

Lt. Cmdr. Tom Craig, an emergency room doctor in Rota, prescribed some Prozac to one man who complained that he was too nervous to function normally. After the man got the medication, he traveled dozens of miles over the rough terrain several days later just to thank the Navy doctor.

"Many people look at the Americans like saviors," said El Hani M'Barek, the Ministry of Health's top doctor in the region. "They're doing many good things here and the people will not forget it. I just hope they can come back."

It is possible.

Military medical teams conduct numerous humanitarian missions in Africa each year. The next operation is planned in Morocco for the spring.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

News tracker: What's new with old news

World

British soldiers' deaths: The families of four young soldiers whose gunshot deaths were ruled suicide by the British Army called Saturday for a public inquiry into how their children died.

On Friday, police who investigated the deaths at Deepcut barracks south of London said they could find no direct evidence pointing to murder. But Surrey county police said their 15-month inquiry had amassed significant evidence about the reasons for the deaths, and called for a wider inquiry.

An independent investigator who examined the cases at the families' behest said it was unlikely the four soldiers had killed themselves.

Russian avalanche victims remembered: Thousands of people held a ceremony Saturday at the site where a glacier crashed down a mountain a year ago, honoring the 125 people buried in the avalanche of ice and mud.

At the entrance to the Karmadon gorge, officials and relatives of the victims unveiled a monument to the dead in the form of a young man trapped inside a block of ice and a helicopter scattered 125 red carnations over the avalanche site.

Koizumi re-elected in Japan: Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi tightened his grip on Japan's ruling party Saturday, promising to recharge the stalled economy while emerging as a long-lived survivor in the political landscape.

The stylish leader, with his wavy, silver mop top, easily won re-election as president of the staid Liberal Democratic Party and said his reform pledges would propel the party to victory in parliamentary elections.

Koizumi's win is seen as bolstering his push for tightened spending, deregulation and privatization. But supporters and opponents alike were waiting to see whether the prime minister would stack his Cabinet with like-minded reformists in a reshuffle expected Monday.

States

Davis signs gay rights bill: Gov. Gray Davis signed a domestic partner bill that closes the legal gap — to the extent possible under federal law — that separates gay and straight couples.

The legislation, signed Friday night, grants same-sex couples in California nearly all the same rights and responsibilities as married spouses and solidifies Davis' reputation as a champion of gay rights.

JetBlue violates own policy: Violating its own privacy policy, JetBlue Airways gave 5 million passenger itineraries to Torch Concepts of Huntsville, Ala., a Defense Department contractor, that used the information as part of a study seeking ways to identify "high risk" airline customers.

The apparent goal of "Homeland Security: Airline Passenger Risk Assessment" was to determine whether it was possible to combine travel and personal information to create a profiling system that would make air travel safer.

The New York-based airline sent an e-mail apologizing to angry customers.

Phil Spector investigation: Sheriff's detectives say they have concluded that legendary record producer Phil Spector was responsible for the shooting death of an actress and have submitted their findings to prosecutors.

"It's not an accident. It's not a suicide," Capt. Frank Merriman told the Los Angeles Times in a story for Friday editions. "Phil Spector shot her."

No immediate decision was expected on whether criminal charges would be filed, said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office.

Spector's "wall of sound" recording technique transformed 1960s pop music.

War on terrorism

Afghanistan reshuffles Defense Ministry: Afghan President Hamid Karzai has approved a long-awaited reshuffle in the Defense Ministry Afghan officials said Saturday.

In an effort to make the ministry more ethnically diverse, Karzai also named Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak, a Pashtun, to be first deputy.

Defense reforms have stalled several times, mainly due to resistance from powerful Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim — an ethnic Tajik who replaced slain Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud as the commander of the then anti-Taliban forces.

From news services

Bomb scare at Panzer Kaserne

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A squeaking noise heard from a package created a bomb scare as postal workers unloaded mail Thursday in Building 3013 at the Kaiserslautern Regional Post Office at Panzer Kaserne.

Upon X-raying the package, an electrical item not reported on the box's customs form was revealed.

"... this made it a suspicious package," said Elke Herberger, a U.S. Army Europe spokeswoman.

The installation's bomb squad, military police and fire department were called to the scene. Using a controlled explosive charge, the bomb squad opened the box and determined that the contents were safe.

The item was an electronic doorstop, Herberger said.

From staff reports

Mid-Atlantic mopping up after Isabel

BY JULIE HALENAR
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The flooding caused by Isabel ebbed away from city streets and suburban docks across the mid-Atlantic, but millions of people remained without power and faced the drudgery of cleaning out basements and yards during the week-end.

Isabel raced into Canada on Friday, dumping less rain and packing less of a punch than expected. By the time it reached the frontier, it had shriveled from a 100 mph hurricane into a 30 mph tropical depression.

Despite its rapid weakening, the storm caused at least 24 deaths and potentially bil-

Storm blamed for 24 deaths, billions of dollars in damage

lions of dollars in damage. Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown warned that Isabel's flooding threat may be a delayed reaction.

"Because Isabel moved through so quickly, we're going to see some blue skies and people will think it's all over with. But indeed we still have a very good chance of some flash flooding. We will still have some rivers that continue to creep up on their banks and overspill," Brown said.

Gary and Kate Hathaway, who live off a cove on Middle

River in Baltimore County, said they would probably need to re-landscape their backyard — ruined by flooding that covered their back porch — and possibly make foundation repairs to their home.

"When it blew in, it landed in our backyard," Kate Hathaway said. "Our house was like a moat."

She said she could hear their pier, as well as pieces from other piers, hitting their home during Thursday's storm.

President Bush declared federal disasters in Mary-

land, Virginia and North Carolina. Delaware officials say they probably would make a disaster request next week.

In all, about 6 million people from North Carolina to New York lost power because of Isabel — 1.6 million of them in southeastern and central Virginia, where uprooted trees and downed power lines closed hundreds of highways and secondary roads. Debris was scattered everywhere. Long lines formed at gasoline stations that managed to stay open.

By late Friday, nearly 1.3 million Virginians were still without electricity. A quarter-million people remained without power in North Carolina, and outages were widespread in other mid-Atlantic states.

European leaders seeking common ground on Iraq

BY COLLEEN BARRY
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany, France and Britain sought to project a new European consensus before next week's U.N. General Assembly meeting on Iraq's future, agreeing broadly on a significant role for the United Nations and a transfer of power to Iraqi authorities, though still divided on how quickly that should happen.

French President Jacques Chirac insisted again that power should be transferred to the Iraqis within months, despite U.S. insistence, shared by British Prime Minister

Tony Blair, that it's too early to establish a timetable.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder sought to act as intermediary at the hastily called summit, the first bringing together the leaders of anti-war France and Germany with Blair, the United States' closest ally, since Europe split over the Iraq war.

Still smarting over the damage by the Iraq war divisions to European attempts at formulating a common foreign policy, the leaders emphasized their nations' willingness to negotiate a U.N. draft proposal seeking to include countries that did not participate in the war in postwar security and reconstruction.

Clark statements on war stance leave supporters confused

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Democratic presidential candidate Wesley Clark reversed an earlier opinion that he likely would have voted for war in Iraq, telling a cheering college-town crowd the invasion was "a major blunder" he never would have supported.

While the use of force can occasionally be justified, he said, "It's not a way to solve problems and resolve disputes. It's very difficult to change people's minds when you are bombing them and killing them."

Many of his backers expressed surprise when Clark told reporters he probably would have voted to authorize the use of force.

"At the time, I probably would have voted for it, but I think that's too simple a question," The New York Times quoted Clark as saying Thursday.

He then added, the Times said, "I don't know if I would have or not. I've said it both ways, because when you get into this, what happens is you have to put yourself in a position. On balance, I probably would have voted for it."

In a speech Friday to more than 1,000 people jammed into a lecture hall at the University of Iowa and in interviews, Clark underscored his opposition to the war, saying: "Let's make one thing real clear, I would never have voted for this war, never."

Iraq council member shot

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen firing from SUVs seriously wounded a member of Iraq's Governing Council on Saturday as she was preparing to leave for U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. It was the first attempt on the life of a member of the U.S.-backed council and occurred as major U.S. allies pressed

for a greater U.N. role in bringing stability to this fractured country.

Aquila al-Hashimi, one of three women on the 25-member council and a leading candidate to become Iraq's U.N. representative, was reported in critical but stable condition with wounds in the abdomen after the 9 a.m. attack.

From The Associated Press

Rookie Rogers quickly center of attention

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Charles Rogers has been compared to Randy Moss for years.

The Detroit Lions rookie has reminded some of the sixth-year star of the Minnesota Vikings because of his height, speed and talent.

Now, there's another thing they have in common: double coverage.

Since Rogers caught two first-half touchdown passes in his pro debut two weeks

Lions receiver fast growing accustomed to double-teams

ago, he has had a lot of company while running routes.

"I didn't think I would see too much double-teams early in my career and I'm starting to see it now, so I have to make adjustments and have a better game plan," Rogers said. "The best always have to beat double-teams and that is what I am planning on doing."

Rogers, the second pick in

the draft, knows few receivers have successful rookie seasons, and he knows who did: Moss, Joey Galloway and Terry Glenn. Rogers doesn't need a records book in front of him to know what Moss has done.

"He's a guy that has had 1,000 yards each season since he came into the league and not many guys can say that,"

said Rogers, who met Moss at an amusement park a couple years ago. "Right now he's at the top of his game. I think we're two guys that can make plays deep, kind of same size, same body stature. The one thing about it, he's been putting his time in and I'm still trying to get there."

Moss is 6-foot-4, 204 pounds, two inches taller and two pounds heavier.

"I think he's got some play-making ability like Randy does, of course, and I see nothing but great things for him," Vikings coach Mike Tice said.

Clarett considers suit against OSU

BY JOHN MCCARTHY

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Maurice Clarett wants information from Ohio State to help determine if he should sue the school, according to a court complaint.

The suspended star running back asked Franklin County Common Pleas Court to allow his lawyers to take sworn statements from university officials about the charge that he lied to police about items stolen from a car.

The complaint, filed late Thursday, said the university, by withholding information, had subjected him to prosecu-

tion and possibly deprived him of his property rights.

He asked for any notes related to the university police report he is accused of falsifying, as well as details of conversations in coach Jim Tressel's office about the report.

Clarett's complaint asks Ohio State to explain why the police report says the case is closed and why an officer approved the report on June 24 when the robbery was first reported on April 18.

The complaint also seeks statements by athletic director Andy Geiger concerning the police report and the identification of everyone who spoke to Clarett about it.

The complaint asks the court to order the university to answer all the questions by Sept. 30. Since the complaint is pending litigation, the university will not comment, spokesman Bill Murphy said.

Meanwhile, a university compliance officer said a businessman gave Clarett a \$500 check and paid at least \$1,000 of his cell phone bills.

Bobby Dellimuti gave the financial assistance to Clarett last year, Heather Lyke, who oversees NCAA compliance for Ohio State, told The Columbus Dispatch for a story Friday.

Dellimuti, a 38-year-old caterer, is a central figure in the NCAA investigation of Clarett.

Dodger fan allegedly shot by Giant fan

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three people were arrested Saturday in the death of a Los Angeles Dodgers fan who was shot during a stadium parking lot dispute after attending a Dodgers-Giants game, police said.

A police spokeswoman said late Friday that the fight was between feuding fans and that the shooter was rooting for the San Francisco Giants. But police said Saturday they were still investigating the

motive and that it was unclear whether baseball was the issue.

Mark Antenoracruz, 25, of Covina, was shot once in the upper body about 10 p.m. Friday as he headed for his car after attending the game, police and county coroner's Lt. Gary Kellerman said. He was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Police spokeswoman Lucy Diaz said Saturday that the victim had been in a shouting match with the three sus-

pects, two men and one woman, and that one of the suspects went to his car, pulled out a handgun and fired.

One of Antenoracruz's companions told a passing driver about the shooting and the driver pursued the suspects' vehicle and wrote down its license plate number. Police used it to track down the suspects.

Diaz said it was unclear what charges would be filed.

Neither baseball team commented on the shooting.

Scores/standings

American League

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	95	58	.621	—
Boston	90	63	.588	5
Toronto	80	73	.523	15
Baltimore	68	84	.447	26½
Tampa Bay	60	93	.392	35
CENTRAL DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	85	69	.552	—
Chicago	81	72	.529	3½
Kansas City	79	74	.516	5½
Cleveland	66	89	.426	19½
Detroit	38	115	.248	46½
WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	92	62	.597	—
Seattle	88	66	.571	4
Anaheim	72	82	.468	20
Texas	69	85	.448	23

Friday's games

Boston 2, Cleveland 0
Toronto 5, Baltimore 2
N.Y. Yankees 2, Tampa Bay 1
Minnesota 6, Detroit 2
Texas 3, Anaheim 2
Chicago White Sox 8, Kansas City 5
Seattle 6, Oakland 1

National League

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	96	58	.623	—
Philadelphia	85	69	.552	11
Florida	84	69	.549	11½
Montreal	79	76	.510	17½
New York	63	90	.412	32½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	84	69	.549	—
Chicago	83	71	.539	1½
St. Louis	79	76	.510	6
Pittsburgh	72	82	.468	12½
Cincinnati	65	89	.422	19½
Milwaukee	65	89	.422	19½
WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Francisco	94	58	.618	—
Los Angeles	81	71	.533	13
Arizona	80	74	.519	15
Colorado	70	84	.455	25
San Diego	60	93	.392	34½

x-clinched division

Friday's games

Chicago Cubs 10, Pittsburgh 9, 1st game
Pittsburgh 10, Chicago Cubs 6, 2nd game
Philadelphia 7, Cincinnati 3
Montreal 7, N.Y. Mets 1
Atlanta 1, Florida 0
Colorado 6, San Diego 5
Arizona 3, Milwaukee 2
Houston 8, St. Louis 1
San Francisco 6, Los Angeles 4

From The Associated Press